

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application. Please amend Claims 1 and 9 as indicated in the following Listing of Claims. Please cancel Claim 25 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A floor covering comprising:
 - a) at least one elastomer as a polymeric binder based on at least one polyolefin with a density < 0.910 g/cm³, wherein the elastomer is at least partially cross-linked with at least one cross-linking agent based on an organic peroxide and optionally a co-cross-linking agent; and
 - b) at least one grafted copolymer, wherein the grafted copolymer is maleic acid anhydride grafted HD polyethylene.
2. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polyolefin has a density of 0.85 – 0.892 g/cm³.
3. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polyolefin is selected from among the class of very low density (VLD) PE polymers.

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4. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the polyolefin is a mixture of at least two ethylene copolymers, wherein the ethylene copolymer mixture comprises a copolymer (a) as the main polymer with a density of 0.89 – 0.91 g/cm³ and a copolymer (b) to control rheology and elasticity with a density of 0.86–0.88 g/cm³ and a melt flow index (MFI) > 3.
5. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the copolymers (a) and (b) are present at a weight ratio of 4:1 to 3:2.
6. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the copolymers (a) and (b) are copolymers of ethylene and octene.
- 7-8. (Previously cancelled)
9. (Currently amended) The floor covering as claimed in ~~Claim 8~~ Claim 1, wherein the grafting degree is 1% to 5%.
10. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the proportion of grafted copolymer in relation to the total weight of the polymeric binder is 5% to 25% by weight.
11. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the elastomer is cross-linked with at least one cross-linking agent based on an organic peroxide and optionally a co-cross-linking agent.
12. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the co-cross-linking agent is an isocyanuric acid derivative or an acrylate or a methacrylate derivative derived from a polyol.

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13. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, which further comprises a filler, a pigment, a processing aid, an antioxidant, a static eliminator, a UV stabilizer or a slip agent.
14. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the filler is a mixture of platelet-shaped and crystalline mineral intergrowths.
15. (Previously presented) The floor covering as claimed in Claim 1, having a variable color pattern and a homogeneous design.

16-24. (Previously withdrawn)

25. (Cancelled)